

# TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Box 2007, Albuquerque, NM 87103

RANGE TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 53

June 15, 1972

RE: Visual Aid for Planning Grazing Systems

(The following information was submitted by Walter "Bus" Lindley, Range Conservationist, Silver City, New Mexico as an employee suggestion for improving techniques in planning grazing systems.)

Each work unit with a substantial rangeland workload will benefit from developing long term local rainfall information for use by conservationists in working with ranchers. (See attached chart developed for the Silver City Work Unit as a guide to developing your own local rainfall information.)

Well trained, experienced, patient, and enthusiastic conservationists can make maximum contributions to the progress in developing grazing systems by the use of visual aids.

One visual aid that has been helpful is a local rainfall chart. The climate of the Southwest is one of great variations in growing conditions, frequent droughts and also some years of very favorable growing conditions. This information used in conjunction with how grass grows, the basic principles of range management and the grazing habits of livestock leaves little doubt as to the need for planned grazing systems--a system that will meet the needs of the resource, livestock operations, and the individual rancher's desires and objectives. The rainfall charts point out the need for flexibility in herd numbers, plans for drought, and will be helpful to the land user in making the decision for herd adjustment.

AC's - 1

DC's - 1

Area Range Conservationists - 1

Adjoining States - 2

D. M. Whitt, Director, Plant Science Div., Washington, D.C. - 1

Several benefits can be realized from the use of Rainfall Chart visual aid:

1. Valuable as part of "thunder book" material to bring out basic principles of how grass grows, livestock habits and management, growing seasons, and the need for flexibility of livestock numbers to meet drought conditions, etc.
2. Makes an excellent "talking point" for working with ranchers and can be easily tied to range management principles.
3. Very good tool for talking to rancher groups and also to civic groups who are interested in problems of managing natural resources.
4. Can be very useful in relating to individual conservation practices for local conditions such as range reseeding, deferred grazing, and livestock water development.
5. When presented in chart form (can be folded and carried in a file folder or rolled and carried in a mailing tube) additional local pertinent information can be included for visual aid use. (Such as sample range inventory maps, green grass-lactation curve charts, range site and condition information, etc.)
6. Conservationists are better informed about the area in which they are working, especially new employees in the work unit.
7. Conservationists that are equipped with only general climatic averages may fail to show adequate needs to be flexible enough to stay in balance with forage production in our climate.

Any official rainfall record (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Weather Bureau, Climatological Summaries) that is representative of the work unit with long time (40-50 years) precipitation records will be satisfactory to develop this information.